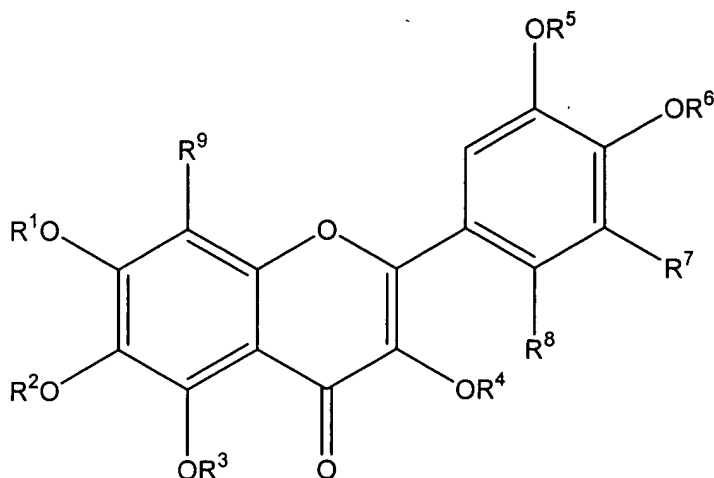


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An external preparation for skin, comprising a compound represented by the following general formula (1) and/or salt thereof ~~and 4-n-butyl-resorcinol and/or a salt thereof.~~



General Formula (I)

~~(In the formula wherein, R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, and R⁶ each independently represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and R⁷, R⁸, and R⁹ each independently represent a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, or an alkyloxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.); and~~
4-n-butyl resorcinol and/or a salt thereof.

2. (Original) The external preparation for skin according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (I) is one or two or more selected from 5,7-dihydroxy-3,6-dimethoxy-2-(5-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-4H-1-benzopyran-4-one, 5,7-dihydroxy-3,6,8-trimethoxy-2-(3,4,5-trihydroxyphenyl)-4H-1-benzopyran-4-one, 3,5-diethoxy-6,7-dimethoxy-2-(5-ethoxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-4H-1-benzopyran-4-one, and 5,6-dihydroxy-3,7-dimethoxy-2-(5-hydroxy-2,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-4H-1-benzopyran-4-one.

3. (Currently amended) The external preparation for skin according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein a source of the compound represented by the general formula (1) and/or salt thereof is an extract of a plant of the genus *Achillea* sp. of the family Compositae or the genus *Centaurea* sp. of the family Compositae.

4. (Original) The external preparation for skin according to claim 3, wherein the plant of the genus *Achillea* sp. of the family Compositae is selected from *Achillea ageratum*, *Achillea cartilaginea*, *Achillea clavenae*, *Achillea filipendula*, *Achillea millefolium*, *Achillea*

Int'l Appl. No. : PCT/JP2004/018649
Int'l filing date : December 14, 2004

nana, Achillea ptarmica, and Achillea tomentosa, and the plant of the genus Centaurea sp. of the family Compositae is Centaurea cyanus.

5. (Currently amended) The external preparation for skin according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, wherein a concentration of the compound represented by the general formula (1) and/or salt thereof is 0.1 mM or higher.

6. (Currently amended) The external preparation for skin according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, wherein a content of the compound represented by the general formula (1) and/or salt thereof is 0.035% by mass or higher.

7. (Currently amended) The external preparation for skin according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~claim 1, wherein a content of 4-n-butyl resorcinol and/or the salt thereof is in a range of 0.05 to 5% by mass.

8. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A whitening cosmetic comprising the external preparation for skin according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the external preparation for skin is a whitening cosmeticclaim 1.

9. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A lightening cosmetic comprising the external preparation for skin according to claim 8, wherein the external preparation for skin is a lightening cosmetic.